

**CITY OF SHOREVIEW
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
February 13, 2012**

Attending:

Council: Mayor Martin, Councilmembers Huffman, Quigley, Wickstrom,
Withhart

Staff: City Manager Terry Schwerm
Public Works Director Mark Maloney

SESCA: Bill Kiehnbaum
Patti Raeker
Cheryl Wason

Mayor Martin called the February 13, 2012 City Council workshop meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION WITH THE SHOREVIEW-EINHAUSEN SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION (SESCA)

The City Council met with representatives from SESCO to discuss upcoming events planned with Shoreview's sister city, Einhausen. The first event noted is the 10th Annual German Dinner that will be held April 14, 2012, at Gasthaus Bavarian Hunter in Stillwater. The guest speaker will be Christa Tiefenbacher-Hudson, Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany in Minneapolis.

During the week of July 24-30, Shoreview, in cooperation with the Shoreview Northern Lights Variety Band (SNLVB), will co-host 39 band members from the Musik Corp Band from Einhausen. Band members will bring families as well as Mayor Phillip Bohrer and current and past presidents of the partnership association in Einhausen, Gunther Jakob, and Gerhard Gartner.

The schedule of events during the Einhausen visitors' stay is planned as follows:

July 24th - A potluck meal at the Pavilion for our German visitors to meet their host families. There will also be a joint band rehearsal. It was noted that the schedule for the potluck at the Pavilion will need to take into account that the Farmers Market will be at Shoreview that day.

July 25th - Formal reception and recognition of Einhausen visitors at the Community Center with coffee and cake. The public will be invited. The Council discussed serving alcohol, noting that the hospitality received in Einhausen by Shoreview visitors always included beer and wine. However, it is illegal for the City to pay for any alcohol served.

The possibilities of a cash bar or serving one non-alcoholic and one alcoholic punch were discussed. Options for serving alcohol will continue to be discussed.

July 26th - Shoreview Northern Lights Variety Band/Musik Corp Band Joint Concert at Bethel University at 7:00 p.m. This concert is free. Shoreview's song, *Toward A New Horizon*, will be played. The composer, Steve Reineke, will be invited to attend.

July 27th - Area tours

July 28th - Musik Corp Band marches in *Slice* and will perform on stage in the evening with the 450 Band

July 29th - Mississippi Dinner Cruise at 6:30 p.m.

July 30th - Group departs for home.

Mr. Kiehnbaum stated that a detailed itinerary is being drafted to be translated into German and sent to Einhausen. Mr. Schwerm requested that SESCO planners be in contact with City staff to be sure any setup needed for planned events is scheduled and preparations are made.

Ms. Wason reported that all visitors will be housed with host families, and there are backup volunteers.

Mayor Martin stated that she especially would like the whole community to be aware of Shoreview's relationship with Einhausen.

A gift to the group to take back to Einhausen was discussed as a way to thank the people of Einhausen for their love and hospitality shown to Shoreview visitors. Councilmember Quigley suggested a commemorative gift to each of the visitors as well. Mr. Schwerm noted that the City can only play a limited role as a public expenditure for gifts. The SNLVB is contributing funding for the events, and funding will also be sought from the Shoreview Foundation.

DISCUSSION REGARDING WATER METER CHANGE OUT PROGRAM

Public Works Director Mark Maloney reported that over 99% of Shoreview property owners have allowed the water meter replacements, Infiltration and Inflow (I & I) inspection and were in compliance by mid-2010. Work was started in 2009 to replace old water meters with new radio read meters. There are 24 properties that the City has been unable to access for the I & I inspection. Of those, 11 have not allowed completion of the water meter replacement. These properties are occupied but have been unresponsive and are incurring penalties of \$150 per quarter on their utility bills.

The I & I inspection is to bring properties up to code to meet modern standards and satisfy the Metropolitan Council that the City is doing everything possible to eliminate the surcharge for unnecessary sewage treatment and that illegal sump pump connections or discharges are addressed.

Mr. Schwerm stated that all of the property owners have paid penalties from \$600 to \$1200. If the accounts are flagged, the I & I inspections can be done when there is a transfer of ownership. Of the 24 properties, four have failed systems, but the City is unable to access the properties to determine if they have been fixed.

Mayor Martin asked how water usage is being determined for their water bills. Mr. Schwerm stated that an estimated amount is used. Mr. Maloney added that about half of the properties have not paid a utility bill since before 2006. The City has been certifying the delinquent accounts as special assessments on property taxes. These properties are in the third year of not having accurate usage readings, and there is a concern that a large adjustment will be necessary when the account is reconciled through transfer of ownership.

The City has few options. The Council discussed an increase of the penalties. Another would be to shut the water off. Yet another option would be to continue charging increased penalties but cap the amount. The negative impact of shutting off water is that people go to the press to make a big issue against the City. Also, properties cannot be occupied if there is no water.

Mr. Maloney stated that if the shut-off option is used, there needs to be a clear explanation of the reason for that action. Yet these property owners pay the fees and late charges. The City is collecting an amount sufficient to cover costs. He believes reconciliation will come with a new resident. Unpaid penalties can be assessed on property taxes. If that happens, there is a statement on their bill to notify of the special tax assessment.

Mayor Martin stated that these property owners will pay more in penalties than the cost for any repairs needed.

It was the consensus of the Council to cap penalty fees after three years for the I & I inspection. Property owners who have not allowed the change to the new water meters will be given a final notice with a date certain for water shut off after winter on May 15th. Notices will be sent close enough to the deadline date so property owners do not forget the deadline.

2012 PROPOSED STREET IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Maloney referred Councilmembers to Ramsey County's concept plan for the future of Highway 49. As a part of the road improvements, the west side of County Road F would be closed off and made into a cul-de-sac, as this intersection does not meet site distance standards. Comments at an information meeting were positive. Residents on County Road F will be contacted for feedback.

It was noted that the address 4087 is a Hodgson Road address. If there is a cul-de-sac, the address will be on County Road F and will need an access driveway to County Road F. Mr. Maloney responded that he is looking into that address change.

OTHER ISSUES

Mayor Martin noted the message from Planning Commission Chair Larry Feldsien expressing his gratitude and what it meant to him that the Council came to the last Planning Commission meeting to commend his service on the Commission with Commissioner Rick Mons. He is very appreciative that he has been able to serve the community. A CD was made that will be sent to him for his family.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.